

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

EXCISE

309

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Action

Control: 6122

SS

Rec'd: November 16, 1962
8:06 p.m.

Info

FROM: Santiago

SR

TO: Secretary of State

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SP

NO: 457, November 16, 7 p.m.

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Re: Circular 816

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1. Lack of understanding US position on Cuba exists in some parts of left and center political spectrum particularly Christian Democratic Party (PDC), its youth branch, student organizations which are controlled by the PDC, and left wing of radical party and radical youth. Christian Democratic resolution of November 6 blamed Cuban actions in large measure to erroneous US policy which drove Castro into Soviet arms thus surrendering Cuban sovereignty. PDC views are colored to a large degree by internal political considerations although Embassy had carried continued dialogue with its leaders explaining US position.

Students apt to be softest on this issue and initial public statement of the Union University Federations depicted little Cuba caught between two blocs and OAS as fighting to keep alive traditional capitalism. Declared US measures constituted grave violation international law, that US and Soviet Union equally to blame for "world unrest" and "keeping humanity submerged in hate and panic." However, UFUCH President told Embassy officer on November 9 that he polled students, workers, labor leaders and found that they unreservedly condemned Castro's admission of Soviet missiles and had been heartened by US finally calling Khrushchev's bluffs. Opined that this party, the PDC, out of touch with popular feeling on this question. Similar views were expressed to Embassy by four ex-presidents Chilean University Federations who are active in organization to train LA university leaders. They said Castro surrender of sovereignty and strong US action leads them to believe that US for first time has chance to win cold war in Latin America.

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-2- 457, November 16, 7 p.m. from Santiago

Best propaganda gambit by communists is "statesmanlike move of Khrushchev" to remove missiles in order to preserve peace; US bases ring Soviet Union; Cuba has legitimate right to call for any types of weapon considered necessary to its defense; and Russian maneuver saved Cuba from invasion.

Suggest USIA provide additional funds to strengthen activities of USIS student affairs grantee and that Department continue seek resources support expanded LA youth program contemplated in CA-1076 and responses thereto.

2. Momentum gained from US stand on Cuba seems to be serving purpose, though slowly, of bringing Chile toward a clearer definition of its stand on Cuba, on its view of neutral countries and of its own internal subversive problems. This is a healthy trend which we believe we can discreetly encourage. We feel, however, that too rapid and open efforts by the US along these lines might be counterproductive. We believe that the Cuban situation has also already had an effect on the Lauca River dispute and was indeed the occasion for drawing Chile and Bolivia back to bilateral conversations on this matter.

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